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	priorities. As of 1973, reconnaissance satellites had top priority while communications and space research satellites were second and third in priority, respectively. the military takeover of most of China's space R&D previously under the Academy of Sciences. (Page 13)
CHINA evidence of PRC space	

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Priorities and Military Coported: late 1973, the PRC had as ing various types of recordations and space researthird priority, respectively which resulted in practice viously under the Acade assigned to institutes to Technology Commission (Nion purely scientific spacethe CAS.	signed top priori- nnaissance satelli- ch satellites we- vely. ally all space-rel emy of Sciences under the National	as of ty to develop- tes. Communi- re second and changes ated R&D, pre- (CAS), being l Science and	
Comment: Although military control of Chi suspected and agree with	na's space progr intelligence asse	am have been	



The Chinese have shown a strong interest in satellite reconnaissance since 1962, and there has been evidence of an ongoing Chinese program since 1971. There also has been strong evidence of an ongoing communications satellite native Chinese scientists have stated that a meteorological satellite would be launched "soon." It could also support military programs. takeover or ionospheric and solar R&D with emphasis on determining solar effects on the ionosphere and, subsequently, on communications. All pertinent scientific data were forwarded to the NDSTC. The low priority for purely scientific space investigation is supported by the lack of launches since the two satellites in 1970 and 1971 despite the availability of a proven launch vehicle. Reconnaissance and communications satellites, however, probably would require a larger, more sophisticated launch vehicle.

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